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Paper No. 6

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APR 0 4 2003

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of	:	
Hwang, et al.	:	
Application No. 09/995,985	:	ON PETITION
Filed: November 19, 2001	:	
Attorney Docket No. DC4974	:	

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.137(a), filed September 24, 2002, to revive the above-identified application.

The petition is **dismissed**.

Any request for reconsideration of this decision must be submitted within TWO (2) MONTHS from the mail date of this decision. Extensions of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) are permitted. The reconsideration request should include a cover letter entitled "Renewed Petition under 37 CFR 1.137(a)."

The above-identified application became abandoned for failure to reply in a timely manner to the Notice to File Missing Parts of Application (Notice) mailed December 28, 2001. The Notice set a period for reply of two (2) months from the mail date of the Notice. No extensions of time under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) were obtained. Accordingly, the above-identified application became abandoned on March 1, 2002.

A grantable petition to revive an abandoned application under 37 CFR 1.137(a) must be accompanied by:

(1) The required reply, unless previously filed. In a nonprovisional application abandoned for failure to prosecute, the required reply may

be met by the filing of a continuing application. In an application or patent, abandoned or lapsed for failure to pay the issue fee or any portion thereof, the required reply must be the payment of the issue fee or any outstanding balance thereof;

(2) The petition fee as set forth in § 1.17(l);

(3) A showing to the satisfaction of the Commissioner that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to this paragraph was unavoidable; and

(4) Any terminal disclaimer (and fee as set forth in § 1.20 (d)) required pursuant to paragraph (c) of this section.

This petition lacks item (3).

Decisions on reviving abandoned applications on the basis of "unavoidable" delay have adopted the reasonably prudent person standard in determining if the delay was unavoidable:

> The word 'unavoidable' . . . is applicable to ordinary human affairs, and requires no more or greater care or diligence than is generally used and observed by prudent and careful men in relation to their most important business. It permits them in the exercise of this care to rely upon the ordinary and trustworthy agencies of mail and telegraph, worthy and reliable employees, and such other means and instrumentalities as are usually employed in such important business. If unexpectedly, or through the unforeseen fault or imperfection of these agencies and instrumentalities, there occurs a failure, it may properly be said to be unavoidable, all other conditions of promptness in its rectification being present.

In re Mattullath, 38 App. D.C. 497, 514-15 (1912)(quoting Ex parte Pratt, 1887 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 31, 32-33 (1887)); see also Winkler v. Ladd, 221 F. Supp. 550, 552, 138 USPQ 666, 167-68 (D.D.C. 1963), aff'd, 143 USPQ 172 (D.C. Cir. 1963); Ex parte Henrich, 1913 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 139, 141 (1913). In addition, decisions on revival are made on a "case-by-case basis, taking all the facts and circumstances into account." Smith v. Mossinghoff, 671 F.2d 533, 538, 213 USPQ 977, 982 (D.C. Cir. 1982).

Finally, a petition cannot be granted where a petitioner has failed to meet his or her burden of establishing that the delay was "unavoidable." Haines v. Quigg, 673 F. Supp. 314, 316-17, 5 USPQ2d 1130, 1131-32 (N.D. Ind. 1987).

Petitioner asserts that the delay was caused by docketing errors by two employees ("senior level office professional" and "contract worker").

MPEP 711.03(c) states: "A delay resulting from an error (e.g., a docketing error) on the part of an employee in the performance of a clerical function may provide the basis for a showing of "unavoidable" delay, provided it is shown that:

> (A) the error was the cause of the delay at issue;
>
> (B) there was in place a business routine for performing the clerical function that could reasonably be relied upon to avoid errors in its performance; and
>
> (C) the employee was sufficiently trained and experienced with regard to the function and routine for its performance that reliance upon such employee represented the exercise of due care."

Petitioner has not shown that there was in place a business routine for performing the clerical function *that could reasonably be relied upon to avoid errors* in its performance. Additionally, petitioner has not provided the necessary information to show that the "senior level office professional" and "contract worker" were sufficiently trained with regard to the function and routine for its performance *that reliance upon such employee represented the exercise of due care*.

As currently submitted, the instant petition appears to show that at the time in question, there was *not* a business routine for performing the clerical function that could reasonably be relied upon to avoid errors in its performance and that the "senior level office professional" and "contract worker" were *not* sufficiently trained with regard to the function and routine for its performance that reliance upon such employee represented the exercise of due care.

As such, the showing of record is not sufficient to establish to the satisfaction of the Commissioner that the delay was unavoidable within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 133 and 37 CFR 1.137(a).

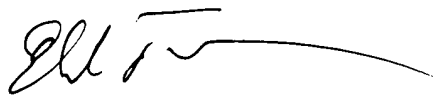
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